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d) at least one stile that is positioned over a portion of an exterior of said first plane of material, and said at least one stile is positioned over a portion of an exterior of said second plane of material.

Please cancel ~~Claim~~ 14.

REMARKS

The Applicant and Applicant's Attorney appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the within application.

Claims 1-6 and 13-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), it being alleged that the foregoing claims are anticipated by Horn, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,470,639.

Anticipation of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 can only be found if the prior art reference discloses every element of the claim. *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1478-79 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Anticipation requires proof by clear and convincing evidence. *Shearing v. Iolab Corp.*, 975 F.2d 1541, 1544 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Additionally, all elements of the claimed invention must be arranged as in the reference. *Structural Rubber Products Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 716 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, "a core comprising polycarbonate having substantially a same perimeter dimension as said first plane of material." Applying the Examiner's analysis of Claim 1 as set forth in the Official Action dated November 22, 2002, this limitation is not

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met. It is the Examiner's position that Horn discloses "a first plane of PVC material (282), a second plane of PVC material (300,302), (and) a polycarbonate core (290) disposed there between the first (282) and second (300,302) PVC materials". However, layer (290) of Horn does not have "substantially^D a same perimeter dimension as" layer (282) of Horn. See Figures 29 and 30 of Horn. Accordingly, Horn does not anticipate Claim 1. Please note that independent Claim 2 has the same limitation recited above for Claim 1. Claim 2 is not, therefore, anticipated by Horn.

Further, Claim 1 requires "at least one stile comprising a first side and a second side, wherein said first side of said stile is generally parallel to said second side of said stile." The support member (284) of Horn, which the Examiner defines as a stile⁽²⁾, does not have generally parallel sides, and does not meet this limitation. Accordingly, Horn does not anticipate the invention as described in Claim 1. Note that Claim 2 includes the same limitation as set forth above for Claim 1, and for this additional reason, Horn does not meet the limitations of Claim 2.

Claims 3-6 are allowable, *inter alia*, because they depend from Claims 1 and 2.

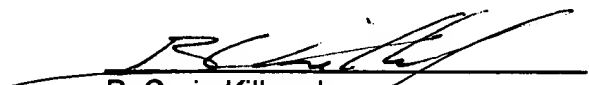
Claim 13, as amended, requires "at least one stile that is positioned over an exterior portion of said first plane of material and said at least one stile is positioned over an exterior portion of said second place of material." The stile (284) of Horn is not positioned over an exterior portion of either a first layer of material (282) or a second layer of material (302).

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Accordingly, Claim 13, as amended, is not anticipated by Horn et al. Having the stile positioned over an exterior portion of the first and second planes of the window covering yields structural strength that is superior to the invention disclosed by Horn.

Claims 1-13, and 15-19, are in condition for allowance. Review and allowance at the earliest possible date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended as follows:

13. A window covering, comprising;

a) a first plane of material;

b) a second plane of material;

c) a center core comprising polycarbonate, wherein said center core comprising polycarbonate is positioned between said first plane of material and said second plane of material, and

d) at least one stile that is positioned over a portion of an exterior of said first plane of material, and said at least one stile is positioned over a portion of an exterior of said second plane of material.

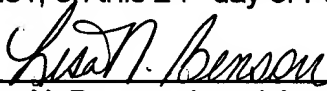
~~14. A window covering as described in Claim 13, further comprising at least one stile that is positioned over a portion of said first plane of material and said at least one stile is positioned over a portion of said second plane of material.~~

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response to the Official Action dated 11/22/2002, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage attached thereto, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 24th day of February, 2003.



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